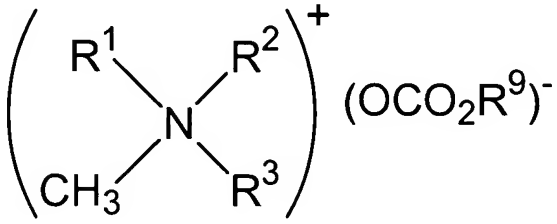
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-38 (Canceled)

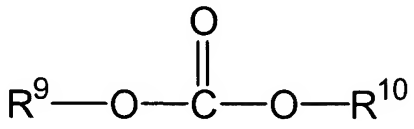
39. (Original) A method of preparing a quaternary ammonium alkylcarbonate having the formula



wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently C_1-C_{30} alkyl, R^3 is a C_8-C_{30} alkyl, and R^9 is a C_1-C_{10} alkyl, the method comprising reacting

(a) an amine having the formula $NR^1R^2R^3$;

(b) an ester having the formula



wherein R^{10} is a C_1-C_{10} alkyl; and

(c) methanol

to form the quaternary ammonium alkylcarbonate.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein R^1 is methyl and R^2 and R^3 are independently C_8-C_{12} alkyl.

41. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the amine is selected from the group consisting of didecylmethylamine, dodecyldimethylamine, dioctylmethylamine, octadecyldimethylamine, dioctadecylmethylamine, trioctylamine, and any combination of any of the foregoing.

42. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the molar ratio of amine to ester ranges from about 1:1 to about 1:10.

43. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the molar ratio of amine to ester ranges from about 1:2 to about 1:3.

44. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the molar ratio of amine to methanol ranges from about 1:2 to about 1:20.

45. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the reaction step is performed at from about 120 to about 160° C.

46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the reaction step is performed at from about 120 to about 150° C.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the reaction step is performed at from about 120 to about 140° C.

48. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of recovering alkanol having the formula R^9OH.

49. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the reaction step comprises reacting

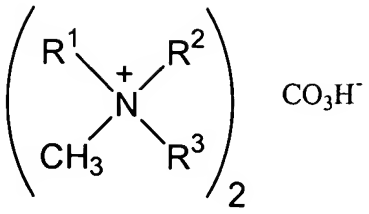
(a) the amine;

(b) the ester;

(c) methanol; and

(d) alkyl methyl carbonate having the formula $CH_3OC(O)OR^9$.

50. (Original) A method of preparing a quaternary ammonium bicarbonate having the formula

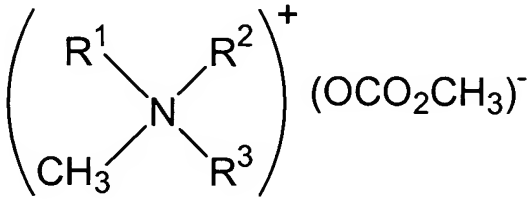


wherein R^1, R^2, and R^3 are independently C_1-C_{30} alkyl, the method comprising

(a) preparing a quaternary ammonium alkylcarbonate by the method of claim 39; and

(b) converting the quaternary ammonium alkylcarbonate to the quaternary ammonium bicarbonate.

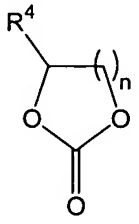
51. (Original) A method of preparing a quaternary ammonium methocarbonate having the formula



wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently C_1-C_{30} alkyl and R^3 is a C_8-C_{30} alkyl, the method comprising reacting

(a) an amine having the formula $NR^1R^2R^3$;

(b) (i) a cyclic carbonate having the formula



wherein R^4 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl and n is an integer from 1 to 10,

(ii) a polycarbonate,

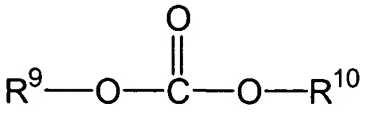
(iii) a carbonate ester, or

(iv) a mixture thereof; and

(c) methanol

to form the methocarbonate.

52. (Original) The method of claim 51, wherein the carbonate ester has the formula



wherein R^9 is $-CH_3$ and R^{10} is a C_1-C_{10} alkyl.